

House File 484 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 484

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 123)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to motor vehicle accidents resulting in injury
2 or death, and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.209, subsection 3, Code 2019, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Failure to stop and render aid as required under the laws
4 of this state or to otherwise comply with section 321.261 in
5 the event of a motor vehicle accident resulting in the death
6 or personal injury of another.

7 Sec. 2. Section 321.261, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 1. a. The driver of any vehicle who knows or has reason to
10 believe that the driver's vehicle was involved in an accident
11 resulting in injury to or death of any person shall immediately
12 stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident or as close as
13 possible and if able, shall then return to and remain at the
14 scene of the accident in accordance with section 321.263.
15 Every such stop shall be made without obstructing traffic more
16 than is necessary.

17 b. If the driver of a vehicle leaves the scene of an
18 accident resulting in injury to or death of a person without
19 knowledge or reason to believe that the driver's vehicle was
20 involved in the accident, and later discovers that the driver's
21 vehicle may have been involved in an accident that resulted in
22 injury to or death of a person, the driver shall, as soon as
23 reasonably possible, make a good-faith effort to immediately
24 contact emergency services or make a 911 call and provide the
25 dispatcher with any requested information described in section
26 321.263 and the location and possible time of the accident.

27 Sec. 3. Section 321.555, subsection 1, paragraph f, Code
28 2019, is amended to read as follows:

29 f. Failure to stop and leave information, ~~or~~ to render aid
30 ~~as required by,~~ or to otherwise comply with sections 321.261
31 and 321.263.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 Under current law, the driver of a vehicle involved in an

1 accident resulting in injury to or death of a person must
2 immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident or
3 as close as possible and if able, must then return to and
4 remain at the scene of the accident. This bill applies the
5 provision to a driver who knows or has reason to believe that
6 the driver's vehicle was involved in an accident resulting in
7 injury to or death of a person.

8 The bill provides that if a driver leaves the scene of an
9 accident resulting in injury to or death of a person without
10 knowledge or reason to believe that the driver's vehicle was
11 involved in the accident, and later discovers that the driver's
12 vehicle may have been involved in an accident that resulted in
13 injury to or death of a person, the driver must, as soon as
14 reasonably possible, make a good-faith effort to immediately
15 contact emergency services or make a 911 call and provide
16 the dispatcher with any requested information described in
17 Code section 321.263 and the location and possible time of
18 the accident. Under Code section 321.263, such information
19 includes the driver's name, address, registration number of
20 the vehicle or other information on the registration receipt,
21 driver's license information, and other identification data.

22 A person who violates Code section 321.261 relating to
23 an accident resulting in an injury is guilty of a serious
24 misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by
25 confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least
26 \$315 but not more than \$1,875. A person who violates Code
27 section 321.261 relating to an accident resulting in a serious
28 injury is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor. An aggravated
29 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two
30 years and a fine of at least \$625 but not more than \$6,250.
31 A person who violates Code section 321.261 relating to an
32 accident resulting in death is guilty of a class "D" felony. A
33 class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no more than
34 five years and a fine of at least \$750 but not more than \$7,500.
35 A violation of Code section 321.261 is subject to mandatory

1 driver's license revocation under Code section 321.209, is
2 considered an offense for purposes of habitual offender status
3 under Code section 321.555, and may result in exclusion from an
4 automobile insurance policy under Code section 515D.4.